

# KENTUCKY SOCIAL WORK BOARD NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 1

Summer 2003

## Division of Occupations & Professions

**Nancy L. Black, Executive Director**

The Kentucky Division of Occupations and Professions provides administrative and fiscal management, technical support and advice to twenty (20) regulatory boards in the complex system of occupational licensing. The licensing boards currently being served by the Division are:

Kentucky Board of Certification for Alcohol and Drug Counselors  
Kentucky Board of Certification for Professional Art Therapy  
Kentucky Athletic Commission  
Kentucky Directory of Registered Athlete Agents  
Kentucky Board of Licensure and Certification of Dietitians and Nutritionists  
Kentucky Board of Certification for Fee-Based Pastoral Counselors  
Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists  
Kentucky Licensing Board for Specialists in Hearing Instruments  
Kentucky Board of Licensure for Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Kentucky Board of Interpreters Policy Committee  
Kentucky Board of Licensure for Marriage and Family Therapist  
Kentucky Board of Licensure for Nursing Home Administrators  
Kentucky Board of Occupational Therapy  
Kentucky Board of Ophthalmic Dispensers  
Kentucky Board of Certification of Professional Counselors  
Kentucky State Board for Proprietary Education  
Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology  
**Kentucky Board of Social Work**  
Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology  
Kentucky Board of Veterinary Examiners

The Division, in cooperation with the Governor's Office for Technology, recently upgraded its Web capabilities and the hardware "behind the scenes." The Web site (<http://occupations.ky.gov>) has dramatically boosted its outreach capabilities for professionals and consumers. Its ability to be revised quickly and to provide information and services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, is a tremendous advantage. The site is under continuous development as traditional products are adapted to the electronic environment – and create new opportunities for self-service.

**Online License Renewal**, the newest technological advance, offers interested licensees the convenience of electronic renewal submission and fee payment by credit card. The Division is the first state agency to offer this service.

**License Verification Online**, permits consumers, professionals and employers to obtain vital information on the records of more than 40,000 licensees in the 20 professions affiliated with the Division. The most important function of professional regulation is to protect the public; this information will help inform people about the licensed professionals who offer services in Kentucky. Online license verification, initiated in 2000, has already established itself as the most popular feature of the web site.

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Web Site: <http://occupations.ky.gov/socialwork/>

## BOARD MEMBERS

Fonetta Elam, Chair  
Paintsville, Kentucky

Sandra Starks, Ed.D., LCSW  
Vice Chair  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Gene Green  
London, Kentucky

R. Dale Smith, Ph.D, LCSW  
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Elise Medinger, LCSW  
Louisville, Kentucky

Richard J. "Butch" Welsh, LCSW  
Lexington Kentucky

Margaret Hazlette, M.ED, LCSW  
Nicholasville, Kentucky

Jim Grawe, Board Attorney - Office of the Attorney General

Nancy L. Black, Director  
Division of Occupations and Professions

## Disciplinary Actions

**The following is a summary of disciplinary actions taken against credential holders by the Board since the last Newsletter. This summary is intended for informational purposes only. All information is believed to be accurate; however, complete items of each disciplinary action are contained in the Board's written records.**

**Cynthia J. Bradley**

**January 27, 2003**

On January 27, 2003, the Kentucky Board of Social Work entered into a Settlement Agreement and took disciplinary action against Cynthia J. Bradley, CSW. The Board concluded that Ms. Bradley violated the law and regulations relating to social work by entering into a dual relationship with a client. The Board and Ms. Bradley agreed to twelve (12) months of supervision of her social work practice.

**Mary Lou Taylor**

**November 19, 2002**

On November 19, 2002, the Kentucky Board of Social Work entered into a Settlement Agreement and took disciplinary action against Mary Lou Taylor, LCSW. The Board alleged Ms. Taylor violated the law and regulations relating to social work by entering into a dual relationship with a client. The Board and Ms. Taylor agreed to: 1) a letter of reprimand to be placed in Ms. Taylor's permanent file; and 2) twelve (12) months of supervision of her social work practice.

*(Continued from page 1)*

### **Division of Occupations & Professions**

The site also features printable application and renewal forms, links to professional associations (as a convenience to licensed professionals), links to the Kentucky statutes and regulations governing the practice of 20 professions and printable instructions and forms for filing a complaint against a licensed professional. The site features information on the state boards for the professions, including meeting information, current members and board administrators.

The Web site evolves continuously, and the Division, on behalf of the 20 occupational licensing boards it supports, is working towards an array of interactive online services. The possibilities for providing useful, accessible information to practitioners and the public are limitless.

Of course, technology does not eliminate the need for face-to-face interactions. The Division's outreach strategy includes efforts that forge connections with customers. The focus is on distributing information in a variety of formats to a variety of customers, with an emphasis on accessibility – making important information easy to find and easy to understand.

Future consumer outreach plans include publication of brochures on the 20 professions affiliated with the Division. Each brochure will provide plain-language information on a profession or set of related professions, including who must be licensed to perform professional services, what services are offered by the profession, and how to verify a license and report professional misconduct and unlicensed practice. The brochures will be distributed to professional associations, public housing authorities, consumer and community groups, consumer protection agencies, public libraries and will be included on our Web site.

### **CEU Committee News**

The Continuing Education Committee of the Kentucky Board of Social Work meets monthly to approve applications and proposals for continuing education credits. Organizations are required to seek pre-approval for their courses/seminars, etc. by the Board or an appropriate crediting body. Individual licensees are not required to submit requests for approval unless there is some question of the training contents relevance to social work practice. It is necessary for all licensees to retain documentation of attendance of his/her training for auditing purposes. Fifteen (15) percent of licensees are audited annually which requires each licensee to submit proof of the required number of continuing education units.

### **MEET R. DALE SMITH, NEW BOARD MEMBER**

B.A. Brescia University – MSW from University of KY  
Ph. D in Social Work from University of Alabama

Clinical Background Experience  
Substance Abuse, Marriage and Family, Family Violence,  
Adolescents, Individual and Group, Serious Mental Illness,  
Community Mental Health

Currently: Associate Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Western  
Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY (1993-2003)

Strengths: Knowledge of social work practice and ethics  
Clinical Practice – diversity  
Engaged in issues of social work practice nationally

## 2003 BOARD MEETING DATES

? January 27, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? February 24, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? March 24, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? April 28, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? May 19, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? June 23, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? July 28, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? August 25, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? September 22, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? October 27, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? November 17, 2003	11:00 a.m.
? December 15, 2003	11:00 a.m.

*All Board meetings are open to the public and are held at the Board offices located at the Division of Occupations and Professions, 911 Leawood Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Frankfort, Kentucky.*

### **Heads Up!**

There are changes in our law which will be of interest to practitioners.

Home study courses are approved for up to half of the continuing education requirement with the exception of the Ethics course. The three (3) hour ethics requirement must be obtained by a live presenter.

Every third renewal period (approximately 9-10 years), a two (2) hour HIV/AIDS course is required.

Please reference the Kentucky Board of Social Work law and regulations related to continuing education requirements.

**201 KAR 23:075**

### **Supervision News**

The Board will be working to change the law to allow practitioners with many years of clinical and supervisory experience to supervise without waiting for the three (3) year post-Kentucky licensure requirement. We hope, on a case by case basis, to permit qualified practitioners to supervise after six (6) months, and after attending the Kentucky supervisor's course. We recognize that skilled practitioners should have a shorter waiting period than the new practitioners are required to have.

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### **Exam waiting period**

According to Kentucky law, failure of any level of the licensure exam requires a six (6) month waiting period before being eligible to retake. The Kentucky Board of Social Work is aware that this creates a hardship for practitioners. In response to this the Board is seeking legislative change to reduce the waiting period to three (3) months, which is consistent with licensure boards nationally.

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## ***Have You Moved?***

*If you have moved since your last renewal, we need for you to let the Board office know. Otherwise we may not be able to get your next renewal form to you.*

*You may obtain a Name/Address Change form by accessing our Web Site or by contacting the Board Office.*

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# BOARD NEWS

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## ON-LINE VERIFICATION OF CREDENTIALS

By accessing the board's web page (see address on page 1), you can now enter the last name of the registrant and check the person's credential type, number, issue date, expiration date, disciplinary action and current status. This is an excellent way for you to track your expiration date. You may also want to verify that your record shows no disciplinary action, if that is the case. In addition to the Social Work Board, the verification page also shows other boards which are under the purview of the Division of Occupations and Professions which includes, among others, Psychology, Professional Counselors and Alcohol/Drug Counselors. ✍

## ONLINE RENEWALS

On-line renewal of credentials now available! By accessing the board's web page (see address on page 1), you can now renew your license online by using a credit card. Just click and follow the instructions. You will be required to list your Continuing Education Courses and once listed, you will be issued a new identification card. There is a convenience fee in addition to the renewal fee for this service - License cost \$50.00 - \$99/00 the convenience fee is \$2:00. License cost \$100.00 - \$200.00 the convenience fee is \$4.00. ✍

### ASWB

Saundra Starks, vice chair of the Kentucky Board of Social Work has been elected to serve a two year term as member-at-large of the national organization of social work boards ASWB (association of social work boards). In this capacity she will also serve as liaison from the board to the (ACE) approved continuing education committee. The ACE committee of the ASWB is currently drafting a model Ethics curriculum for trainings of social work ethics courses.

### Meet Gene Greene

Mr. Greene was appointed to the Board as Citizen-at-Large in February 2003. Mr. Greene is a retired minister of 42 years from the Assembly of God Church in Eastern Kentucky and has served as chaplain for the Laurel Heights Home for the Elderly for the past 9 years.

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK**  
**PO BOX 1360**  
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PRESORTED STANDARD

US POSTAGE

PAID

FRANKFORT, KY.

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